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VOL. 41 NO.49

Quantum Computing Revisited

After Nvidia and Meta CEOs disparaged its usefulness, the industry presents its case for a brighter future

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Los Angeles Times

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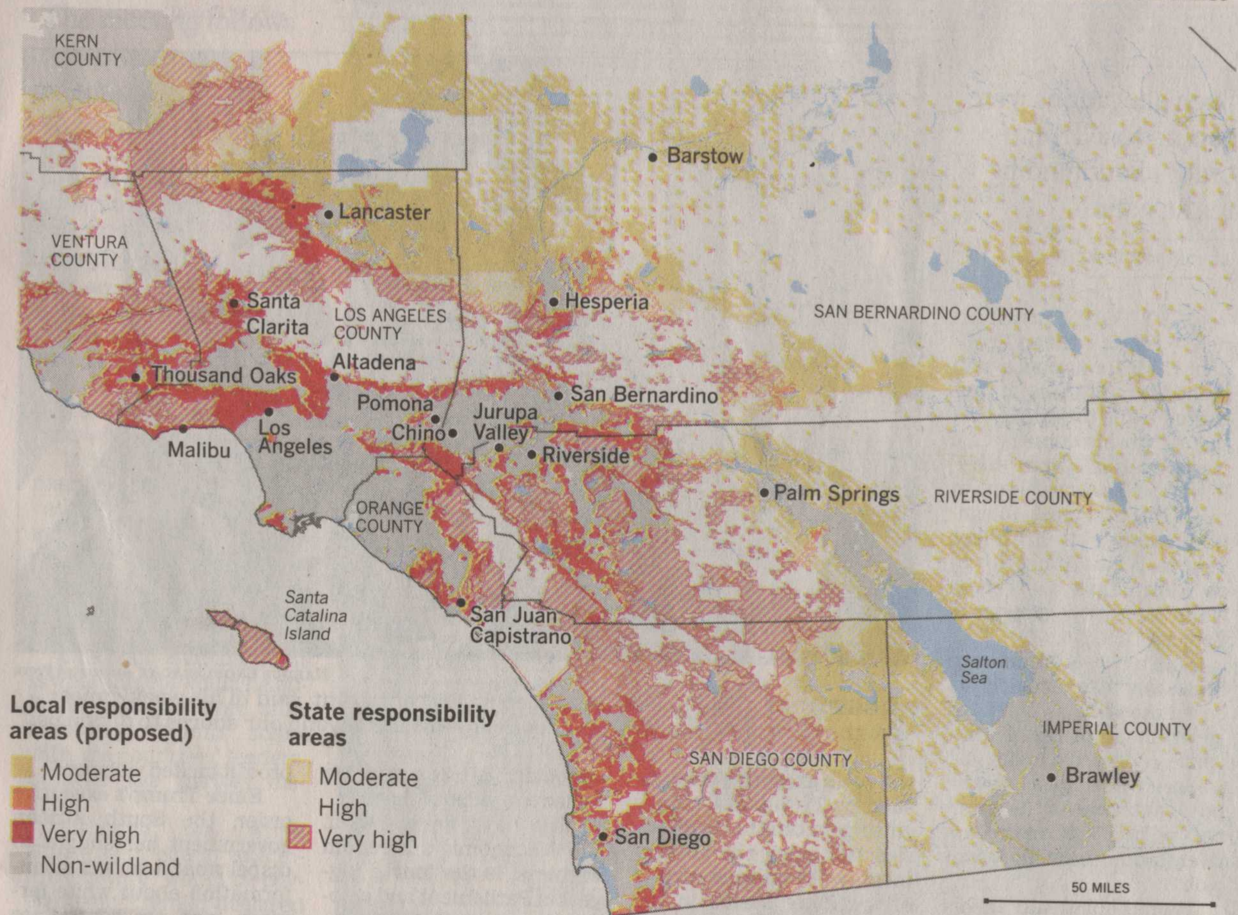
New fire hazard zones for Los Angeles and Southern California



California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Sean Greene Los Angeles Times

New fire maps increase SoCal hazard zones by 3.5 million acres

Agency's redrawn boundaries increase amount of land in the highest severity areas by 30% in the county.

By Noah Haggerty and Sean Greene

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection released updated fire hazard severity zone maps for Los Angeles County for the first time in over a decade on Monday, adding more than 440,000 acres to the county's hazard zones, including a 30% increase in acres zoned in the highest severity rating.

The release — which includes all of Southern California and marks the end of the agency's two-month, statewide rollout — sets off a roughly five-month clock for the city and county of L.A. to receive public input, make adjustments and begin e[nforcing heightened fire-sa[fe]ty regulations within t[he] new zones.

The new Cal Fire ma[ps] are only for areas where loc[al] fire departments, like th[e] Los Angeles Fire Depar[t]ment and Los Angel[es] County Fire Departmen[t] are responsible for respon[d]ing to blazes. Previously, C[al] Fire only mapped the hig[h]est severity rating, "ve[ry] high," for these local respo[n]sibility areas. The new map[s] include Cal Fire's "moder[]ate" and "high" zones as we[ll].

Cal Fire most recent[ly] updated all three zones f[or] the areas where the state r[e]sponds to fires in Septembe[r] 2023. However, the last tim[e] the agency updated its map[s] for areas where local fire de[]partments are responsibl[e] was in 2011.

The city of L.A. saw it[s] acreage in the "very high[]" zone increase by 7%. The ad[]dition of the new "moderate" and "high" zones led to th[e]

[See Maps, A8

With billions at stake, lawyers pour into fire-scarred Altadena

In person and on Zoom calls, 'victim advocates' are ready and available

By Matt Hamilton

She is the nation's most famous legal secretary, whose real-life advocacy on toxic groundwater was portrayed by Julia Roberts to Oscar-winning acclaim.

He is the most recognizable civil rights attorney of his generation, winning millions of dollars for Black and descended on the charred ruins of Altadena as the aftermath of the deadly Eaton fire shifts to the courthouse, with Southern California Edison in the crosshairs.

And they're not alone.

In churches, community centers and hotel conference rooms, on private Zoom calls and at public food giveaways, lawyers and their

War plans shared in text with journalist

Top national security officials gave details of upcoming military strikes in Yemen.

Trump told reporters he was not aware that the sensitive information had been shared, 2½ hours after it was reported.

The material in the text chain "contained opera-

os Angeles Times

O AREAS HIGHER © 2025 † FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2025 latimes.com

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GENARO MOLINA Los Angeles Times

NGER, 65, clears a clogged drain in front of a burned home in Pacific Palisades. She lost one house, but another survived.

Biggest storm of year slams L.A.

Atmospheric river prompts mandatory evacuations for some in high-risk areas.

BY RONG-GONG LIN II, NATHAN SOLIS, HANNAH FRY AND CLARA HARTER

The biggest rainstorm of the season slammed into Southern California on Thursday, bringing with it flash floods, severe thunderstorms and the possibility of "life-threatening" debris flows just a month after fierce Santa Ana winds propelled a firestorm across L.A. County.

The National Weather Service issued flash flood and thunderstorm warnings for a wide swath of the county, with rainfall rates of 0.75 inches to 1.25 inches per hour expected. Debris flows may be triggered when rainfall rates exceed 0.5 inches per hour. Burn scars in the Palisades, Franklin and Eaton fires pose a strong danger of slides.

"There is now a high risk for a life-threatening debris flow," the weather service said. "Mud, rock, and debris flows will have the potential to impact drainages, roads, and residences in and directly below the burn area."

Areas covered by flash flood warnings Thursday afternoon and evening in-

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While the exact cause remains under investigation, Edison has acknowledged that evidence suggests its equipment may have played a role. The company previously revealed that its lines over Eaton Canyon saw a

What hasn't yet been fully explained is why the utility delayed shutting off power to much of the area — and whether it could have done more to prevent the catastrophe.

But public records uncovered by The Times indicate the company had been warned less than three years ago about the risk that a power shutdown would overload other transmission lines, potentially causing dangerous overheating and sparks. Fixes that some experts said could have miti-

os Angeles Tin

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Photographs by

DEAN WENNER looks at the rubble on Pacific Coast Highway where his house stood before the Palisades fire.

Trying to rebuild beside a risi

Malibu properties face mar
Should burned homes b

By James Rainey

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Records show utility was told in 2022 that emergency shutdown could overload lines.

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Photographs by Myung J. Chun Los...

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USC CUTS SPENDING AMID FEDERAL PROBES

The university plans hiring freeze and more as it faces deficit and 'funding uncertainty.'

By Daniel Miller and Jaweed Kaleem

Roiled by multiple investigations from the Trump administration, USC has announced a slate of cutbacks — including a staff hiring freeze — as it braces for what it called "federal funding uncertainty" in a letter released Monday.

Among the nine austerity measures are a reassessment of capital spending projects and restrictions on discretionary spending, according to the letter signed by university leaders including outgoing President Carol Folt.

The USC actions come at a time of unprecedented threats against universities by the Trump administration. It has vowed to cut federal funding — including key medical and science research grants — to institutions that do not comply with its directives. Trump has ordered campuses to squelch antisemitism; eliminate diversity, equity and inclusion programs; and ban transgender athletes from competing in women's sports.

"Recent developments require us to take additional steps to increase our financial resilience in the face of exceptional financial uncertainty," said the letter, which noted that USC received about $570 million in research funding in fiscal year

[See **USC**, A5]

Photographs by Myung J. Chun Los Angeles Times

DEAN WENNER looks at the rubble on Pacific Coast Highway where his house stood before the Palisades fire. He is eager to rebuild.

Trying to rebuild beside a rising sea

ENVIRONMENTAL advocates have favored a policy of "managed retreat" from imperiled shorelines. But fire victims resist the idea.

Malibu properties face many climate risks. Should burned homes be replaced?

By James Rainey

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When the tide was up, you felt almost like you were on an ocean liner, with views that swept from Palos Verdes to Point Dume.

Now the Wenners are among more than 300 families along Pacific Coast Highway in Malibu who lost their homes in the January firestorms, all of them facing even greater hurdles than their inland neighbors in trying to rebuild homes that most never planned to leave.

The reason for extra anxiety along Pacific Coast Highway? The very qualities that made the houses so special — their precarious toehold on the Pacific coast — will now make them particularly challenging to rebuild.

Already burned by a fire that came from the north and east, the owners are being required to rebuild their homes to ward off ever-rising seas and fiercer storms coming from the south and west.

That will mean not just incorporating the fireproofing measures now required of homes throughout

[See **Coastal**, A6]

Why a polystyrene ban hasn't worked

California prohibits styrofoam in food service items. How is it still on the shelves?

By Susanne Rust

Styrofoam coffee cups, plates, clamshell takeout containers and other food service items made with expanded polystyrene plastic can still be found in restaurants and on store shelves, despite a ban that went into effect on Jan. 1.

A Smart and Final in Redwood City was brimming with foam plates, bowls and cups for sale on a recent visit. Want to buy these goods online? It was no problem to log on to Amazon.com to find a variety of foam food ware products — Dart insulated hot/cold foam cups, or Hefty Everyday 10.25-inch plates — that could be shipped to an address in California.

Same with the restaurant supply shop KaTom, which is based in Kodak, Tenn.

Smart and Final and KaTom didn't respond to requests for comment. A spokesperson for Amazon said the company would look into the matter.

The expanded polystyrene ban is part of a single-use plastic law, Senate Bill 54, that Gov. Gavin Newsom signed into law in 2022 but bailed on earlier this month.

[See **Plastics**, A6]

Star's injury dims USC's title hopes

Losing JuJu Watkins for the rest of the season could prove devastating, Bill Plaschke writes. **SPORTS, B10**

William Liang For The Times

SEA LIONS at a San Pedro rescue center. A surge in marine mammals sickened by domoic acid, a neurotoxin, has prompted warnings to beachgoers to steer clear.

Toxic algae bloom takes toll on marine mammals

By Summer Lin

Ventura County on Friday. Ri LaMendola said the ani-

bloom.

"It was super intense," he

Trump discounts security breach

He calls the texting of sensitive war plans on the publicly available Signal app a 'glitch.'

By David Klepper and Aamer Madhani

WASHINGTON — President Trump on Tuesday downplayed the texting of sensitive plans for a military strike against Yemen's Houthis this month to a group chat that included a journalist, saying it was "the only glitch in two months" of his latest administration as Democratic lawmakers heaped criticism on officials for handling highly sensitive

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Toxic algae bloom takes toll on marine mammals

By Summer Lin

Sea lions and other ocean mammals in Southern California are falling victim to a poisoning event that a local expert calls the worst in recent memory. It is stranding the mammals along the coast as warnings are issued to beachgoers of the threat posed by animals that are transformed by their illness.

A surfer reported an attack by a sea lion that was "feral, almost demonic" as he was on his board off Ventura County on Friday. Rj LaMendola said the animal bit him as he surfed off Oxnard, shaking its head and dragging him off his surfboard. He said on Facebook that as he paddled away terrified, the sea lion continued to stalk him.

LaMendola, who has been surfing in Oxnard since 2006, said he tried to splash the sea lion to scare it away. He later contacted the Channel Islands Marine & Wildlife Institute, who told him the attack likely happened due to the toxic algae bloom.

"It was super intense," he said, "unlike anything I've ever seen in all the years I've been in the water."

Ingesting domoic acid from harmful algal blooms can cause sea lions to have seizures or to crane their heads in a motion known as "stargazing." They can also fall into a comatose state. But experts advise people not to interact with animals believed to be sick because, without warning, they might aggressively lunge or even
[See Mammals, A9]

Trump discounts security breach

He calls the texting of sensitive war plans on the publicly available Signal app a 'glitch.'

By David Klepper and Aamer Madhani

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Trump told NBC News that the lapse "turned out not to be a serious one," and articulated his continued support for national security
[See Signal, A5]

Is messaging app Signal safe to use?

Cybersecurity experts weigh in on whether the app is for everyday communication. NATION, A5

Star's injury dims USC's title hopes

Losing JuJu Watkins for the rest of the season could prove devastating, Bill Plaschke writes. SPORTS, B10

Inside the O.C.'s ghost town mall

Kaleidoscope offers its very few visitors broken elevators and sewage smells. CALIFORNIA, B1

'No Other Land' co-director hurt

Palestinian Hamdan Ballal is released after attack and detention. ENTERTAINMENT, E1

Weather
Mostly cloudy.
L.A. Basin: 72/53. **B6**

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Jonathan Majors at career crossroads

He hopes "Magazine Dreams" will spark Hollywood comeback as he talks about how he's changed since legal troubles started. **In Life**

'What it takes to win': Why Boston Celtics are thriving

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USA TODAY
THE NATION'S NEWS | $3 | THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2025

RODIN ECKENROTH/GETTY IMAGES

Bad rap has stuck to federal workers

They have long history of being punching bags

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USA TODAY

THE NATION'S NEWS | $3 | THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2025

MAR 20 2025

Bad rap has stuck to federal workers

They have long history of being punching bags

Jessica Guynn and Bailey Schulz
USA TODAY

Gerald Krygier is cheering from the sidelines as Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency takes a chainsaw to government bloat.

A secondary teacher from Fort Collins, Colorado, Krygier says the government moves too slowly, employs too many people and squanders his tax dollars. Despite some early missteps, he says, he's confident Musk can root out waste and make government more efficient, just like Musk says he did after taking over Twitter, now X.

As for the tens of thousands of government employees fired or in limbo, Krygier doesn't have much sympathy for them. Most jobs come with few protections or guarantees, he says. No one knows that better than Krygier, who was laid off three times in his high-tech career, the first time after 30

See WORKERS, Page 6A

Space travelers Butch Wilmore, left, Aleksandr Gorbunov, Nick Hague and Suni Williams wait inside their SpaceX Dragon capsule Freedom after it was hoisted onto a recovery ship off Tallahassee, Fla. PROVIDED BY NASA/KEEGAN BARBER VIA REUTERS

Feet back on ground, crew begins a new saga

Splashdown successful; now astronauts need their sea legs

Eric Lagatta
USA TODAY

If you've been following the Starliner saga, you've almost certainly heard the news: Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams are back on Earth after a dramatic water landing off the coast of Florida.

The NASA astronauts who months ago flew to space aboard Boeing's failed Starliner spacecraft were finally able to have their long-awaited homecoming Tuesday evening. After an early-morning departure from the International Space Station – their unanticipated home for the past 286 days – Wilmore and Williams splashed down around 6 p.m. ET in a SpaceX Dragon capsule.

And they weren't alone.

Joining them for the 17-hour voyage through the cosmos were NASA astronaut Nick Hague and Roscosmos cosmonaut Aleksandr Gorbunov, the two members of a SpaceX mission known as Crew-9. Hague and Gorbunov flew to the space station in September aboard the Dragon vehicle NASA selected for Williams and Wilmore's return journey.

The U.S. space agency's difficult choice became necessary when Boeing's Starliner encountered technical problems upon reaching the orbital laboratory that made it unsafe for its crew to ride back to the ground. To avoid having the station be understaffed, NASA opted to keep Williams and Wilmore at the station a few extra months rather than launch an emergency mission to return them to Earth.

Though the experienced astronauts have long downplayed their extended mission as just part of the job, they no doubt are relishing the chance to finally reunite with loved ones while reacclimating to life on Earth.

"We are thrilled to have Suni, Butch, Nick, and Aleksandr home," Janet Petro, NASA acting administrator, said in a statement.

The SpaceX Dragon vehicle, charred from its journey through Earth's atmosphere, deployed parachutes to land right on schedule at 5:57 p.m. ET in waters near Tallahassee.

Teams aboard SpaceX recovery vessels raced to retrieve the floating spacecraft and its crew of four. SpaceX crews on a pair of boats were the first to reach the Dragon, helping secure it and hoist it

See ASTRONAUTS, Page 2A

The returning astronauts' SpaceX Dragon heads for splashdown right on schedule Tuesday in calm Gulf waters.
PROVIDED BY NASA TV VIA REUTERS

"Once cleared by NASA doctors, the crew members return home and begin fully reacclimating to life on Earth."
NASA

A photo of an FBI agent reenacting the John F. Kennedy assassination is held up at the Texas School Book Depository building in Dallas.
BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

JFK files reveal Soviets thought assassin Oswald was a lousy shot

Josh Meyer
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – Lee Harvey Os-

Los Angeles Times

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[See **Storm,** A6]

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But public records uncovered by The Times indicate the company had been warned less than three years ago about the risk that a power shutdown would overload other transmission lines, potentially causing dangerous overheating and sparks. Fixes that some experts said could have mitigated the risk were repeatedly delayed, the records

[See **Shutdown,** A6]

ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

INVESTIGATORS view the area seen as the possible origin of the Eaton fire in Eaton Canyon in Altadena.

Trump ups ante, rolls out reciprocal tariff plan

By Josh Boak

WASHINGTON — President Trump on Thursday rolled out his plan to increase U.S. tariffs to match the tax rates that other countries charge on imports, possibly triggering a broader economic confrontation with allies and rivals alike, as Trump says he aims to eliminate any trade imbalances.

"I've decided for purposes of fairness that I will charge a reciprocal tariff," Trump said in the Oval Office at the proclamation signing. "It's fair to all. No

ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

TEDDY VAZQUEZ, owner of Teddy's Red Tacos, says sales are down by half after President Trump announced executive actions targeting illegal immigrants.

Immigration enforcement rattles L.A.'s dining scene

a pool of flavorful broth.

There are no people coming

Kennedy confirmed as health secretary

Vaccine skeptic who has advanced false theories wins over Republican senators.

By Amanda Seitz

WASHINGTON — The Senate on Thursday confirmed Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and he was then sworn in as President Trump's health secretary, putting the prominent vaccine skeptic in control of $1.7 trillion in federal spending, vaccine recommendations and food safety as well as health insurance programs for roughly half the country.

Nearly all Republicans fell in line behind Trump's nominee despite hesitancy over Kennedy's views on vaccines as the Senate voted 52 to 48 to elevate the scion of one of America's most storied political — and Democratic — families to secretary of the Health and Human Services Department. Democrats unanimously opposed Kennedy.

Kentucky Sen. Mitch McConnell, who had polio as a child, was the only no vote among Republicans, mirroring his stands against Trump's picks for the Pentagon chief and director of national intelligence.

"I'm a survivor of childhood polio. In my lifetime, I've watched vaccines save millions of lives from devastating diseases across America and around the world," McConnell said in a

[See **Kennedy,** A8]

Trump cedes to Russia on Ukraine

ECONOMIC BLACKOUT ON
FEBRUARY 28, 2025
12:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m.
TAKE PART & SHARE THE NEWS

If you haven't heard, there will be a nationwide economic blackout on Friday, February 28. This means don't buy ANYTHING unless it's from a small, local business – NO gas, no fast food, and definitely No Amazon, No Walmart, No Target, and No Best Buy. Get the word out! We want THEM to see that WE have the power. We will start with 1 day, then 3, then specific companies until our message is heard.

Please spread the word!
Thank you!

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LOS ANGELES
SENTINEL

ECONOMIC BLACKOUT ON
FEBRUARY 28, 2025
12:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m.
TAKE PART & SHARE THE NEWS

If you haven't heard, there will be a nationwide economic blackout on Friday, February 28. This means don't buy ANYTHING unless it's from a small, local business – NO gas, no fast food, and definitely No Amazon, No Walmart, No Target, and No Best Buy. Get the word out! We want THEM to see that WE have the power. We will start with 1 day, then 3, then specific companies until our message is heard.

Please spread the word!
Thank you!

Vol. 92, No. 8 • $1.00 +CA. Sales Tax — *"For Over Ninety Years The Voice of Our Community Speaking for Itself"* — THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2025

Youth Speak to Mayor Bass About Life After Wildfires

Lift Every Voice- Youth Speak Out on Impact of Wildfires private event allowed youth to speak to the mayor and each other.

BRIAN W. CARTER/L.A. SENTINEL

Youth affected by the recent wildfires engaged in round table exchanges and spoke with the mayor.

BRIAN W. CARTER/L.A. SENTINEL

St. Francis High School student, Mason Maddox, emceed the event and shared his story.

By Brian W. Carter
Contributing Writer

"Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you and hear from you and learn about your concerns," said Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass at Lift Every Voice- Youth Speak Out on Impact of Wildfires, a private event held at the LA 84 Foundation recently.

Youth affected by the Pacific Palisades, South Los Angeles, Sylmar, Altadena, and Pasadena wildfires engaged in round table exchanges about their experiences. Each table selected a representative to summarize their experiences and ideas and present questions to Mayor Bass. One of the topics of conversation presented to the mayor was about air quality and rebuilding the

(See LIFT EVERY VOICE on B-6)

USC Gould School of Law Installs its First African American Dean

By Daniella Masterson
Contributing Writer

USC

Dean Franita Tolson

It was the anniversary of the Montgomery Bus Boycott, a protest that would be a pivotal event in the Civil Rights movement, and the 1965 Voting Rights Act when Franita Tolson was installed as dean of the USC Gould School of Law.

Not only did Tolson have history on her mind in that hallow moment, but she was also making it.

Tolson would become the first Black dean and the second female dean in the 124-year history of USC's Gould School of Law. The last dean was a Latino.

During her installation, Tolson firmly honored the ...geous individuals who protested segregation, especially those who risked their lives in the march to Selma, which was met with a brutal attack known as Bloody Sunday.

"We honor our history and our ancestors because their sacrifices give us a glimpse of what is possible and what can be," Tolson said during her remarks captured in the university's press.

"In my role as dean, respecting the journeys of those who walked the paths that we now walk helps me to respect and appreciate the journeys of all in our community. It also helps me to chart a path forward that is sensitive to, and seeks to build on, a history that has emphasized greatness and the principle that if we can dream it, we can achieve it."

Approximately 200 people attended Tolson's installation to mark the historic appointment, including USC President Carol Folt, Provost Andrew T. Guzman, and many of the leaders of USC's 22 other schools and academic units.

"Appointing Franita dean of the law school was as easy a choice as a Provost could ever make," said Guzman. "Her scholarly reputation in public law is impeccable, she has deep administrative experience as Vice Dean, and holds the universal respect of the faculty, staff, and students.

"Though legal education has faced a string of major challenges dating back to the great recession of 2008-2009, Franita is battle-tested in crisis.

USC

Franita Tolson delivers testimony before the U.S. Senate in Sept. 2021.

Looking ahead, we know legal education will encounter new challenges and that our mission — producing superb lawyers and impactful scholarship — will remain as critical to our society as it has ever been. In the current moment, we could not ask for a better leader than Franita Tolson," added

(See DEAN FRANITA TOLSON on B-6)

St. Francis High School student, Mason Maddox, emceed the event and shared his story.

BRIAN W. CARTER/L.A. SENTINEL

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{See DEAN TOLSO

CHASE BANK BRANCH ALT[...] REOPENS

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COURTESY PHOTO

In order to support customers, the community and thousands of distressed customers affected by the Eaton fire, the Chase Branch located at 2333 N. Lake Avenue in Altadena re-opened on Feb. 10, 2025

50501 Movement Stages Protest Demonstration at L.A. City Hall

By Betti Halsell
Digital News Editor/Staff Writer

Hundreds of Angelenos chanted in unison, "Hey hey, ho ho, Elon Musk has got to go," in front of the Los Angeles City Hall on Monday, Feb. 17, expressing opposition to the Trump administration.

"All our rights are trying to be taken away," protest participant Wendy Green said, "If you don't come out and you don't do anything—it will just happen. We got to stand up." Green is a physician from

{See 50501 MOVEMENT on B-6}

PHOTO BY BETTI HALSELL

Hundreds of Angelenos chanted in unison, "Hey hey, ho ho, Elon Musk has got t front of the Los Angeles City Hall on Monday, Feb. 17.

Watts mural salutes Black pioneers on L.A. Rams

By Ray Richardson
Contributing Writer

WATTS — A huge outdoor wall in the Nickerson Gardens housing project will serve as a permanent link to the legacy of pioneering Black players who helped shape the Rams history in the National Football League.

The Rams commissioned Brian Peterson, a Black artist based in Miami, Florida, to design a mural displaying full-color images of five former Rams who left a lasting impact on the franchise and the NFL — offensive lineman Jackie Slater, defensive end Deacon Jones, running back Kenny Washington, defensive end Woody Strode and quarterback James Harris.

"I now know my role as a storyteller ... to familiarize people with these great men and what they accomplished," Peterson said at the unveiling ceremony Feb. 22.

Peterson's mural is 26 feet high and stretches 32 feet across.

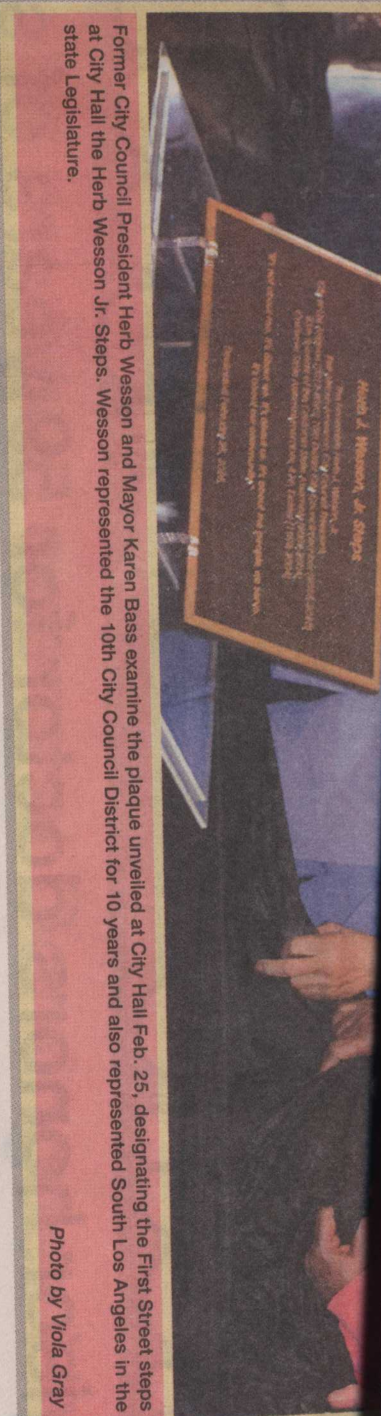
A mural unveiled Feb. 22 in the Nickerson Gardens Housing Project in Watts depicts five prominent Black members of the Los Angeles Rams. The five, from left, are Jackie Slater, David "Deacon" Jones, Kenny Washington, Woody Strode and James Harris.

Strode also signed with the Rams in 1946 and was part of a movement to help break the NFL's color barrier. Strode played one season with the Rams before turning to acting and building a successful film career. Strode earned a Golden Globe Award nomination in 1960 for Best Supporting Actor for his role in "Spartacus."

Harris, who played four seasons with the Rams (1973-76), was the Rams' first Black quarterback. Harris was 21-6 as the Rams' starting quarterback and led the team to three straight appearances in the NFC championship game.

Harris was the first Black quarterback in the NFL to start and win a playoff game when he led the Rams to a 19-10 win over the then-Washington Redskins on Dec. 22, 1974.

Peterson, 38, is part of a generation today that is not familiar with Slater, Jones, Anderson, Strode and Harris. All five played in eras before many Rams fans were born. Peterson admitted he



Former City Council President Herb Wesson and Mayor Karen Bass examine the plaque unveiled at City Hall Feb. 25, designating the First Street steps at City Hall the Herb Wesson Jr. Steps. Wesson represented the 10th City Council District for 10 years and also represented South Los Angeles in the state Legislature.

Photo by Viola Gray

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Harris, who was greeted with a standing ovation, was frequently interrupted by applause during her roughly 4-1/2 minute acceptance speech.

"This organization came into being at a moment when our country struggled with greed, bitterness and hatred," she said. "And those who forged the

See HARRIS, Page 11

EDDIE ALEXANDER
LOS ANGELES

"My mom recently passed away. To see the amount of love that's surrounding me and allowing me to push through ... has been amazing."

RAYMOND DYER
LOS ANGELES

Simply waking up and looking for the good. Bad news is everywhere. I wake up and ... I know that something is going to be good everyday."

Compiled by Cynthia Gibson in Leimert Park.

This Week in Black History

February 29, 1940

25¢ • Thursday, February 27, 2025

Los Angeles
WAVE
NEWSPAPERS
Vol 108 • No. 09

erving Alhambra, Baldwin Hills, Bell, Bell Gardens, Bellflower, Belvedere, Boyle Heights, Carson, City of Commerce, City of Vernon, Compton, Crenshaw, Cudahy, Culver City, Downey, agle Rock, East Los Angeles, El Sereno, Gardena, Hawthorne, hland Park, Hollywood, Huntington Park, Inglewood, Lawndale, Lincoln Heights, Lynwood, Maywood, Montebello, Monterey Park, Mt. Washington, Norwalk, Paramount, Pico Rivera, Rosemead, San Gabriel, Santa Fe Springs, South Gate, South Los Angeles, The City of Commerce, Vernon, Watts, West Hollywood, Whittier

Hollywood coming to Baldwin Hills?

Stocker Street project hopes to inspire more Black creatives in L.A.

By Stephen Oduntan
Contributing Writer

BALDWIN HILLS — A new creative hub is rising in Baldwin Hills in hopes of positioning South Los Angeles as a major force in the entertainment industry.

Stocker Street Creative, a multimillion-dollar production campus, hopes to keep local talent working in their own community. With state-of-the-art soundstages, Class A production offices, and a rooftop restaurant with panoramic views, it aims to reshape the entertainment landscape in South L.A.

For too long, filmmakers had to go to Hollywood or Burbank to bring their visions to life, organizers say. They say Stocker Street Creative is changing that — creating a space where Black and other underrepresented voices can tell their own stories on their own terms.

On Feb. 22, local leaders, industry professionals, and community members gathered at the Community Connect Event to witness the unveiling of Stocker Street Creative's vision. Hosted by Pantheon Business Consulting, the event showcased the ambitious 5.12-acre project.

"This isn't just a studio — it's a movement," said Stanley Washington, CEO of Pantheon Business Consulting and the project's lead developer. "For years, local talent had to leave their neighborhoods to find opportunities. Now, we're bringing Hollywood home."

The project comes amid longstanding calls for investment in Black communities and increased access to the entertainment industry. Baldwin Hills,

See BALDWIN HILLS, Page 11

Stephen Oduntan is a freelance reporter for Wave Newspapers.

An artist's rendering of the Stocker Street Creative, a planned development that would bring state-of-the-art soundstages, production offices and a rooftop restaurant to Baldwin Hills to allow Black creatives to create in their own neighborhood. Developers hope to break ground on the project later this year.

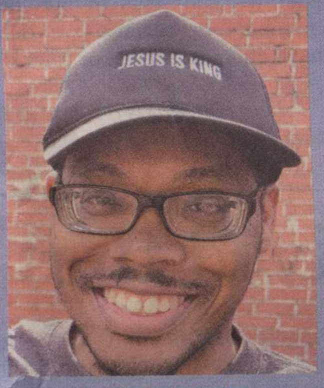
Courtesy photo

Street Beat

'What gives you hope in the current situation?'

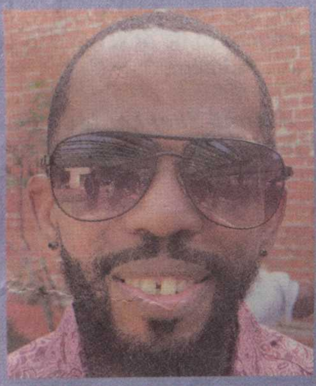
J BLACK
Los Angeles

Community. To see the way that folks are aligning to support those that are in need. I'm excited to be a part of that effort, loving and encouraging people."



CHRIS STAR
Bellflower

"Through everything that's been going on, what gives me hope is that everyone is finally speaking to each other. The barriers are coming down."



EDDIE ALEXANDER
Los Angeles

"My mom recently passed away. To see the amount of love that's surrounding me and allowing me to push through ... has been amazing."

A STEP ABOVE

Former City Council President Herb Wesson and Mayor Karen Bass examine the plaque unveiled at City Hall Feb. 25, designating the First Street steps at City Hall the Herb Wesson Jr. Steps. Wesson represented the 10th City Council District for 10 years and also represented South Los Angeles in the state Legislature.

Photo by Viola Gray

Kamala Harris honored at Image Awards

Staff and Wire Reports

PASADENA — Former Vice President Kamala Harris used her first major televised appearance since leaving office — accepting the Chairman's Award during the 56th NAACP Image Awards Feb. 22 — to urge vigilance as the man who ended her bid for president in November continues revamping the U.S. government.

"Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty," Harris told the audience during the ceremony at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium. "While we have no illusions about what we are up against in this chapter of our American story, this chapter will be written not simply by whoever occupies the Oval Office — nor by the wealthiest among us. The American story will be written by you, written by us — by we the people."

Harris, who was greeted with a standing ovation, was frequently interrupted by applause during her roughly 4-1/2 minute acceptance speech.

"This organization came into being at a moment when our country struggled with greed, bitterness and hatred," she said. "And those who forged the

See HARRIS, Page 11

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"All the News That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times

THE WEATHER
A weak storm is expected to produce showers of rain and wet snow today across parts of the Midwest. Other areas will be mostly dry. Weather map appears on Page B12.

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FEB 2 5 2025

JAMES HILL FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Vigil at the Vatican
An anxious mood hung over St. Peter's Square as the faithful prayed for Pope Francis, who remained in critical condition. Page A11.

Justice Official Battles District Where He Rose

Ties in New York Fray in Feud Over Mayor

*This article is by **Adam Goldman, Glenn Thrush, Benjamin Weiser, Maggie Haberman** and **Michael S. Schmidt**.*

WASHINGTON — Emil Bove III, the acting deputy attorney general, stood stone-faced and alone at the prosecution table inside the federal courthouse in Manhattan last week to do a job his onetime colleagues in the U.S. attorney's office for the Southern District of New York would not.

Mr. Bove, who runs the day-to-day operations of the Justice Department under President Trump, was there to seek the dismissal of corruption charges against Mayor Eric Adams, a task seen as so dubious that two prosecutors in a prideful office known as the "Sovereign District of New York" resigned rather than carry out his demands to do it.

He lashed out at the office after the hearing. "There are no separate sovereigns in this executive branch," he wrote in a statement that also suggested his former coworkers prepare to resign if they disagreed.

It was the latest chapter in Mr. Bove's estranged-family feud with the Southern District, where he rose to prominence as a top terrorism prosecutor and departed in December 2021 after a case he oversaw crumbled over procedural violations by members of his team.

He would go on to become a key member of Mr. Trump's defense team known for his unyielding style. Since being installed at the Justice Department, he has emerged as one of the most powerful officials in the country and the main enforcer of Mr. Trump's demands for retribution and unimpeded control of federal law enforcement.

That Mr. Bove, 44, has quashed dissent at the Southern District is an indication of its outsize impor-

MILLIONS AT RISK OF MEDICAID LOSS IF G.O.P. WINS CUTS

TARGETING EXPANSION

A Plan to Pay for Trump Tax Breaks May Shift Burden to States

By NOAH WEILAND and SARAH KLIFF

WASHINGTON — House Republicans hunting for ways to pay for President Trump's tax cuts have called for cutting the federal government's share of Medicaid spending, including a proposal that would effectively gut the Affordable Care Act's 2014 expansion of the program.

Cutting Medicaid spending, which is central to the budget bill that House Republicans may bring to a vote on Tuesday, could result in millions of Americans across the country losing health coverage unless states decide to play a bigger role in its funding.

Republicans are considering lowering the 90 percent share that the federal government is required to pay to states that enroll participants in the expansion. The change could generate $560 billion in savings over a decade, money that Republicans want to use toward extending Mr. Trump's 2017 tax cuts, which are set to expire at the end of 2025. Extending the tax cuts is expected to cost $4.5 trillion, meaning Republicans will have to find savings beyond Medicaid from a long menu of options.

A move to lower federal spending on the Medicaid expansion population could effectively gut the program. Around 10 states that have expanded their programs have so-called trigger laws that reverse the Medicaid expansion if the federal government decreases funding for the population.

The change could leave the 40 states that participate in the Oba-

Toiling at Sea, With Pay Sent To North Korea

By CHOE SANG-HUN and MUKTITA SUHARTONO

They spent up to 10 years at sea, toiling in some of the harshest conditions distant-water fishing crews can face. Many never set foot on land because their Chinese captains did not want them to be seen by the port authorities. Most of their salaries went directly to

A Discovery Has a Literary Community Kvelling

Lost Manuscript Turns Into a 'Last Great Yiddish Novel'

By JOSEPH BERGER

Altie Karper had been waiting for the call for years.

An editor at a Knopf imprint, she had long wanted to publish an English translation of the last novel by Chaim Grade, one of the leading Yiddish authors of the 20th century.

Grade was less well known than the Nobel Prize laureate Isaac Bashevis Singer, but was held in greater esteem in some literary quarters. He'd written the novel in question through the 1960s and

signed a contract with Knopf to publish an English-language translation. To do that, Knopf needed the original pages in Yiddish, with Grade's changes and corrections. But Inna, who held his papers, put up roadblocks. She offered to translate, but then went

leaving behind a morass of 20,000 books, manuscripts, files and correspondence in their cluttered Bronx apartment. The Bronx public administrator turned the papers over to the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research and the National Library of Israel.

The galleys, if they existed, were somewhere in there.

Finally, in 2014, Karper received a call from Jonathan Brent, the executive director of the YIVO Institute. It was *the* call.

"We found it!" he said.

In the small world of Yiddish lit-

"All the News That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times

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MAR 2 6 2025

THE WEATHER
The Northeast is expected to be cold today with a few snow showers across the interior. Much of the West will remain unseasonably warm. Weather map appears on Page B10.

Trump's Team Bares Disdain Toward Europe

Texts Become Public, Shaking an Alliance

By JEANNA SMIALEK and STEVEN ERLANGER

BRUSSELS — Trump administration officials have not kept their disdain for Europe quiet. But the contempt seems to be even louder behind closed doors.

Europeans reacted with a mix of exasperation and anger to the publication of parts of a discussion among top-ranking Trump administration officials, carried out on the messaging app Signal. The discussion, about a planned strike on Yemen, was replete with comments that painted Europeans as geopolitical parasites

FOR WHITE HOUSE, REACTION TO LEAK IS TO DOWNPLAY IT

FUROR IN WASHINGTON

Senate Democrats Push Back on Testimony by Spy Chiefs

By TYLER PAGER

WASHINGTON — President Trump characterized an extraordinary security breach as a minor transgression on Tuesday, insisting that top administration officials had not shared any classified information as they discussed secret military plans

NATHAN J. LEE/L.A. SENTINEL

Urban Alchemy Interim Chief of Community and Government Affairs Tim Kornegay shows support for Mayor Karen Bass.

force city leaders to increase funding.

Hawkins wrote that during Crowley's tenure, complaints of racial dis-

cies in promotions, and payroll failures that left employees unpaid for

{See STENTORIANS PRESS CONFERENCE on B-7}

Right Wing Republican Supporters Launch Effort to Recall Mayor Karen Bass

FILE PHOTO

Mayor Karen Bass

BY DANNY J. BAKEWELL, JR.
Executive Editor

Another day, another attack on Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass.

On Thursday, Feb. 27, the California Secretary of State website listed the filing of a new organization entitled the "Recall Mayor Karen Bass Committee." Many speculated that this was a committee somehow tied to President Donald Trump and DOGE leader Elon Musk, although that connection has not been confirmed.

However, on Monday, March 3, filings with the City of Los Angeles Ethics Committee showed that billionaire and Robert F. Kennedy for President running mate Nicole Shanahan, a San Francisco Bay Area businesswoman formerly married to Google co-founder Sergey Brin, is one of the major funders of the efforts to recall Mayor Bass.

According to the recall website, other GOP backers involved in the recall campaign include real estate agent Sahil Nandwani and former San Diego Republican Party executive director Gerald Sirotnak.

The efforts to recall the mayor will be a challenge for her opponents. It would take somewhere between 300,000 and 350,000 signatures over the next four months to trigger a recall against her.

But what appears to be a Republican-backed campaign against the mayor, fueled by big-money donors, the possibility is not impossible, said one high-ranking official within the Los Angeles Democratic Party.

The mayor has been under relentless attacks after the Palisades fire broke out on Jan. 7. At the time, the mayor was in

{See KAREN BASS RECALL on B-7}

Los Angeles Honors Herb J. Wesson Jr.'s Legacy with Renaming of City Hall Steps

NATHAN J. LEE/L.A. SENTINEL

Herb J. Wesson Jr. served on the Los Angeles City Council from 2005 to 2020, leading as Council President from 2012 to 2020.

BY NATHAN J. LEE
Contributing Writer

Los Angeles immortalized Herb J. Wesson Jr., renaming the First Street Steps at City Hall in his honor — a fitting tribute to a leader who transformed policy into progress. On Tuesday, Feb. 25, city officials, community leaders, and supporters gathered at Los Angeles City Hall, a landmark crowned by the Tom Bradley Observation Deck on its 27th floor, to celebrate Wesson's impact.

At a ceremony attended by Mayor Karen Bass, Councilwoman Heather Hutt, and Council President

{See HERB WESSON on B-7}

Registration Open for Wildfire Recovery and Rebuild Conference

BY CORA JACKSON-FOSSETT
Managing Editor

Survivors of the Eaton and Palisades fires can register today for the Wildfire Recovery and Rebuild Conference to learn explicit steps to restore their property.

The free symposium, hosted by the Los Angeles Sentinel, will be held on Saturday, March 29, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Hilton Pasadena, 168 South Robles Ave., in Pasadena. Attendees can register at www.lasentinel.net or click on the QR code on page A-5.

"We have enlisted knowledgeable subject matter experts to help those affected by the fires navigate the twist and turns that will come about while trying to rebuild the homes and businesses lost in the Eaton and Palisades fires," said Bakewell Media President and Sentinel Executive Editor Danny J. Bakewell, Jr.

"Thanks to our sponsors and partners, the professionals at this conference can answer your most pressing questions as well as address your concerns about the displacement, recovery and building process."

Conference sponsors include Airbnb, Bank of America, BMO Bank, Brotherhood Crusade, Chase Bank, City National Bank, Community Build, Law Firm: Ivie, McNeill, Wyatt, Purcell & Diggs, SEIU 721, Torrey Pines

{See WILDFIRE CONFERENCE REGISTRATION on B-7}

E. MESIYAH MCGINNIS/L.A. SENTINEL

Experts will share details on rebuilding homes and businesses lost in the Eaton and Palisades fires.

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The New York Times

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THE WEATHER

Isolated thundershowers expected across South Florida today. A few showers will form over the Ohio Valley. Elsewhere will be mostly dry. Weather map appears on Page B8.

A soldier on the bloodstained steps of the presidential palace in Khartoum, Sudan, where a missile killed four state TV workers and two military officers on Friday.

IVOR PRICKETT FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

MUSK IN POSITION TO REAP BILLIONS IN U.S. CONTRACTS

SPACEX STANDS TO GAIN

A Mogul's Role in Cutting Costs Opens the Door to Influence Policy

By ERIC LIPTON

WASHINGTON — Within the Trump administration's Defense Department, Elon Musk's SpaceX rocketry is being trumpeted as the nifty new way the Pentagon could move military cargo rapidly around the globe.

In the Commerce Department, SpaceX's Starlink satellite internet service will now be fully eligible for the federal government's $42 billion rural broadband push, after being largely shut out during the Biden era.

At NASA, after repeated nudges by Mr. Musk, the agency is being squeezed to turn its focus to Mars, allowing SpaceX to pursue federal contracts to deliver the first humans to the distant planet.

And at the Federal Aviation Administration and the White House itself, Starlink satellite dishes have recently been installed to expand federal government internet access.

Mr. Musk, as the architect of a group he called the Department of Government Efficiency, has taken a chain saw to the apparatus of governing, causing chaos and dread by pushing out some 100,000 federal workers and shutting down various agencies, though the government has not been consistent in explaining the expanse of his power.

But in selected spots across the government, SpaceX is positioning itself to see billions of dollars in new federal contracts or other support, a dozen current and former federal officials said in interviews with The New York Times.

The boost in federal spending for SpaceX will come in part as a result of actions by President Trump and Mr. Musk's allies and employees who now hold government positions. The company will also benefit from policies under the current Trump administration that prioritize hiring commercial space vendors for everything

Continued on Page A18

G.O.P. Warms To More Help For Children

By CLAIRE CAIN MILLER

Democrats have long looked to the government to support their families through public programs and spending. Increasingly, Republicans want the same.

The details of how they want the government to help vary. But the growing bipartisan agreement reflects a belief among parents that American families are in crisis and something has to change.

In a variety of surveys in recent years, majorities of both Democrats and Republicans show support for family policies like paid leave, affordable child care and tax credits for parents. Large majorities are in agreement that the government should do more to regulate social media use for young people. And Americans think that K-12 education needs to be fixed.

The latest evidence is a poll of 1,300 parents released on Monday by Common Sense Media, a nonprofit. In it, 73 percent of Democrats, 65 percent of independents and 55 percent of Republicans said the federal government spends too little on programs that benefit children.

Even having a small majority of Republicans embrace government spending on children is a notable shift, analysts say. It's a recognition that American families are struggling, especially those who are working class, a growing share of Republican voters. Most parents in the new survey said things were fair or poor for families like theirs. In a second survey released on Monday by Common Sense, of 1,100 children ages 12 to 17, just 4 percent said things were excel-

In Khartoum's Ruins, Signs of Shift in Civil War

As Government Retakes Capital's Core, Peace Still Seems Far Off

By DECLAN WALSH

KHARTOUM, Sudan — At the battle-scarred presidential palace in the heart of Sudan's shattered capital, soldiers gathered under a chandelier on Sunday afternoon, rifles and rocket launchers slung over their shoulders, listening to their orders.

Then they trooped out, down a red carpet that once welcomed foreign dignitaries, and into the deserted center of the city on a mission to flush out the last pockets of resistance from the paramilitary fighters with whom they have been clashing for two years.

Since Sudan's military captured the presidential palace on Friday, in a fierce battle that left hundreds dead, it has taken control of most of central Khartoum, marking a momentous change of fortunes that is likely to change the course of Sudan's ruinous civil war.

By Sunday, the military had seized the Central Bank, the headquarters of the national intelligence service and the towering Corinthia Hotel along the Nile.

Journalists from The New York Times were the first from a Western outlet to cross the Nile, into central Khartoum, or to visit the palace, since the war erupted in April 2023. What we saw there made clear how decisively the events of recent days have shifted the direction of the war, but offered little hope that it will end soon.

"We will never leave our country to the mercenaries," said Mohamed Ibrahim, a special forces officer, referring to the R.S.F. — the paramilitary force that Sudan's army once nurtured, but is now its rival for supreme control.

As our vehicle raced down a deserted street along the Nile that until a few days ago had been controlled by the R.S.F., the scale of the damage in one of Africa's big-

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Willie Brown, a former mayor of San Francisco, opened his closet for charity with an eBay auction.

Sartorial Flair for the Political, and the Charitable

By ORLANDO MAYORQUÍN

In January 1996, the newly sworn-in mayor of San Francisco noticed something wrong at City Hall. One of his aides was wearing a linen suit in the winter. The may-

Brown.

Mr. Brown, who served as mayor of San Francisco from 1996 to 2004, is one of the sharpest dressed political figures in California.

The handkerchief peeks out of his Baldini suit pocket at just the

said pedestrians were faster than the train service — all while wearing a suit, wingtips and a wide-brimmed Panama hat.

At the age of 91, Mr. Brown has opened his closet. His green Gucci high-top sneakers? Yours for $105.50. His ivory Kiton cashmere

Airstrike Plan Was Disclosed In Group Text

By HELENE COOPER and ERIC SCHMITT

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth disclosed war plans in an encrypted chat group that included a journalist two hours before U.S. troops launched attacks against the Houthi militia in Yemen, the White House said on Monday, confirming an account in the magazine The Atlantic.

The editor in chief of The Atlantic, Jeffrey Goldberg, wrote in an article published on Monday that he was mistakenly added to the text chat on the commercial messaging app Signal by Michael Waltz, the national security adviser.

It was an extraordinary breach of American national security intelligence. Not only was the journalist inadvertently included in the group, but the conversation also took place outside of the secure government channels that would normally be used for classified and highly sensitive war planning.

Mr. Goldberg said he was able to follow the conversation among senior members of President Trump's national security team in the two days leading up to the strikes in Yemen. The group also included Vice President JD Vance and Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Mr. Goldberg wrote.

At 11:44 a.m. on March 15, Mr. Hegseth posted the "operational details of forthcoming strikes on Yemen, including information about targets, weapons the U.S. would be deploying, and attack sequencing," Mr. Goldberg wrote. "The information contained in them, if they had been read by an adversary of the United States, could conceivably have been used to harm American military and in-

It's an Honor, Mr. President. Oh, Hey, Elon.

By SHAWN McCREESH

PHILADELPHIA — "All right, Philadelphia, show us your guns! Show us your muscles!"

It was Saturday night in Philly, and Wells Fargo Center was packed with brawny men for the N.C.A.A. men's Division I wrestling championship. "Macho Man" by Village People blared as the stadium's announcer turned the camera back on the crowd and told it to flex.

Down beside the ring sat President Trump and his entourage. There were a few loyal Republican congressmen; his chief of staff, Susie Wiles; his press secretary, Karoline Leavitt; and, as is so often the case these days, Elon Musk.

Mr. Musk wore a black SpaceX hoodie and hovered two seats down from Mr. Trump. Throughout the night, college wrestling champions would approach to meet the president and to get a picture with him. That often meant getting one with Mr. Musk,